

Message Text

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT:GREECE AND NATO

REF: USNATO 4706

1. WE ARE ENCOURAGED AT EVIDENCE IN CYPRUS GROUP MEETING AUGUST 30 (REFTEL) THAT KEY ALLIES SEEM PREPARED TO PURSUE CAREFUL APPROACH IN CONSIDERING RESPONSES TO CARAMANLIS LETTER AND THAT FRENCH MAY BE READY TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE WITHIN LIMITS OF THEIR SPECIAL SITUATION.

2. WE AGREE THAT OTHER ALLIES SHOULD AVOID ANY APPEARANCE AT THIS STAGE OF ACCEPTING CARAMANLIS LETTER AS A SIGNAL OF INTENT REQUIRING IMMEDIATE RESPONSE BY THE "THIRTEEN", INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY. RATHER,
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OTHER ALLIES SHOULD AWAIT FURTHER DEFINITION OF GREEK

THINKING BEFORE TAKING STEPS TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES
FORMALLY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GREECE, INCLUDING
ESTABLISHMENT OF "GROUP OF THIRTEEN" ALONG LINES OF
"GROUP OF FOURTEEN" SET UP AT TIME OF FRENCH WITHDRAWAL.

3. YOU SHOULD BE GUIDED BY STATE 191420 IN PURSUING
DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLIES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT CYPRUS GROUP
MEETING AUGUST 30 HAS SET PRECEDENT AMONG KEY ALLIES

FOR DEALING ON MULTILATERAL BASIS WITH GREECE-NATO
ISSUES, AND BASED ON AUGUST 30 DISCUSSION FURTHER
CONSULTATIONS IN CYPRUS GROUP CAN USEFULLY SUPPLEMENT
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS CALLED FOR IN STATE 191420.
HOWEVER, CYPRUS GROUP, AS SUCH, SHOULD BE USED CAUTIOUSLY
IN DISCUSSION OF GREECE-NATO ISSUES IN ORDER TO AVOID
GIVING ANY IMPRESSION IT IS "GANGING-UP ON GREECE",
SEEKING TO FORCE PACE OR ACTING ON BEHALF OF OTHER
ALLIES THAT SHARE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS IN GREECE-NATO
ISSUES. WE ANTICIPATE THAT IN DUE COURSE IT MAY BE
NECESSARY TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION IN INFORMAL
MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON GREECE-NATO ISSUES BEYOND
PARTICIPANTS IN PRESENT CYPRUS GROUP, WHOSE
PURPOSE HAS BEEN TO DEAL, WITH TACIT CONSENT OF OTHERS,
WITH ISSUES RELATED TO CYPRUS.

4. WITH REGARD TO IS STUDIES DESCRIBED REFTTEL, THESE
CAN PROVIDE HELPFUL BASIS FOR FURTHER ALLIED
CONSIDERATION OF GREECE-NATO ISSUES, AND HAVE BENEFITS
OF (A) BEING UNDER IMPARTIAL AUSPICES AND (B) PLACING
GREECE ON NOTICE, AS GREEK DELEGATION BECOMES AWARE OF
STUDIES, THAT ALLIES ARE EXAMINING SERIOUSLY THE
IMPLICATIONS FOR GREECE AND OTHER ALLIES OF GREECE'S
POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTEGRATED MILITARY
STRUCTURE. AS BASIS FOR US INPUTS, YOU MAY DRAW AS
APPROPRIATE UPON MISSION ANALYSIS IN USNATO 4524 AND
STATE 191420. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FURTHER
CONTRIBUTIONS AS REQUIRED.

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